



# News Release

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## **West Valley City Council Members Attend National Conference Focusing on New Ideas and Solutions for Cities**

West Valley City – West Valley City Council Members Don Christensen and Corey Rushton recently joined thousands of fellow leaders from across the country for the 2010 National League of Cities' (NLC) annual Congress of Cities and Exposition in Denver, Colorado. The conference offered sessions and workshops to learn and share innovative ideas and solutions for their city's economic development, infrastructure, sustainability and public safety needs.

More than 2,000 municipal officials heard from nationally-known experts such as L. Hunter Lovins, president and founder of Natural Capitalism. Lovins spoke with delegates about tools and strategies to create more sustainable local governments. Former Florida governor Jeb Bush and Harvard University political scientist Robert D. Putnam discussed steps that governments can take to form successful relationships between immigrants and their new communities.

Additionally, former US Senator Chuck Hagel (R-Neb.) offered his perspective on the current political climate in Washington, DC, in the wake of the mid-term elections. Department of Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack discussed health and wellness and brought video greetings from First Lady Michelle Obama.

"The Congress was a great opportunity to represent West Valley City on a national scale and observe innovations that will enhance our local community," says Council Member Corey Rushton.

Each year at the Congress of Cities, local officials make connections and learn about resources to help move their communities forward. Delegates meet with thousands of peers and colleagues from around the country to discover cost-saving programs, products and services; replicate effective programs and create innovative solutions to their community's most pressing challenges.

Attendees had an opportunity to tour model city programs throughout Denver and its neighboring communities. Mobile workshops included the Scientific Cultural Facilities District, the US 36 Multi-Modal Transportation Project and Corridor Coalition Building and the National Renewable Energy Laboratory.

Attendees also participated in leadership training seminars, explored the latest products and services from exhibitors and learned about innovative and award-winning programs for cities and towns through the City Showcase.

The National League of Cities is the nation's oldest and largest organization devoted to strengthening and promoting cities as centers of opportunity, leadership and governance. NLC is a resource and advocate for 19,000 cities, towns and villages, representing more than 218 million Americans.

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